

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) joined Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis at the San Antonio American GI Forum in announcing \$600,000 in Department of Labor (DOL) grants. The grants are being awarded under the U.S. Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. in San Antonio will receive \$300,000 under an extension of an existing grant and an added \$300,000 under a new funding grant.

"We are honored to have Secretary Solis visit San Antonio today and I applaud the Department of Labor's designation of critical funding for our veterans," said Rep. Gonzalez. "This funding will help the veterans in our community prosper by helping them obtain the key job training skills needed to do well in life. The grant will provide our veterans an opportunity to overcome the challenges facing them and help them become economically self sufficient."

HVRP grantees enroll thousands of homeless veterans annually in programs that involve emergency shelter, substance abuse counseling and treatment, job counseling and referrals, employment assistance, transportation, housing and clothing. With these funds, homeless veterans in San Antonio will be treated from a holistic perspective, with the ultimate goal of putting these veterans in meaningful employment. Job counseling, resume preparation, job development and placement are among the services that will be provided.

Congressman Gonzalez joined Secretary Solis in meeting with local veteran service organization's representatives and members of the American GI Forum at today's event. He also joined the Secretary earlier in a meeting with local officials, community leaders, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, college presidents, unions and businesses to discuss the priorities for the Department of Labor.

"This administration is focused on creating jobs, and today our community leaders joined Secretary Solis in discussing the actions we need to take to keep San Antonio moving forward. Our community is made up of a large number of veterans and minority business owners. The way in which Secretary Solis is implementing the programs within the Department of Labor will effectively improve San Antonio's economy and help create jobs," added Rep. Gonzalez.

More information on the Department of Labor's unemployment and re-employment programs for veterans can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/vets/> .

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